

• C o u n t e r p o i s e •

The Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Volume XLVIII

February 2007

Number 2



Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon meets every 2nd Thursday at 7:00 pm at the First Lutheran Church of El Cajon. The address is 867 South Lincoln Ave. Next meeting:

February 8, 2007 7:00 pm

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All Official written communication is to be submitted to:

A.R.C.E.C. P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

The Counterpoise is a publication of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). It is published once monthly and contributions are accepted from officers and members of the club. We also encourage input from members of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon. Opinions expressed are solely that of the author and do not necessarily reflect the opinions of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon (ARCEC). Articles may be submitted either by e-mail or mail to the editor.

Paul Rios at:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net or by post
1237 Victor Ave #4, El Cajon, CA 92021

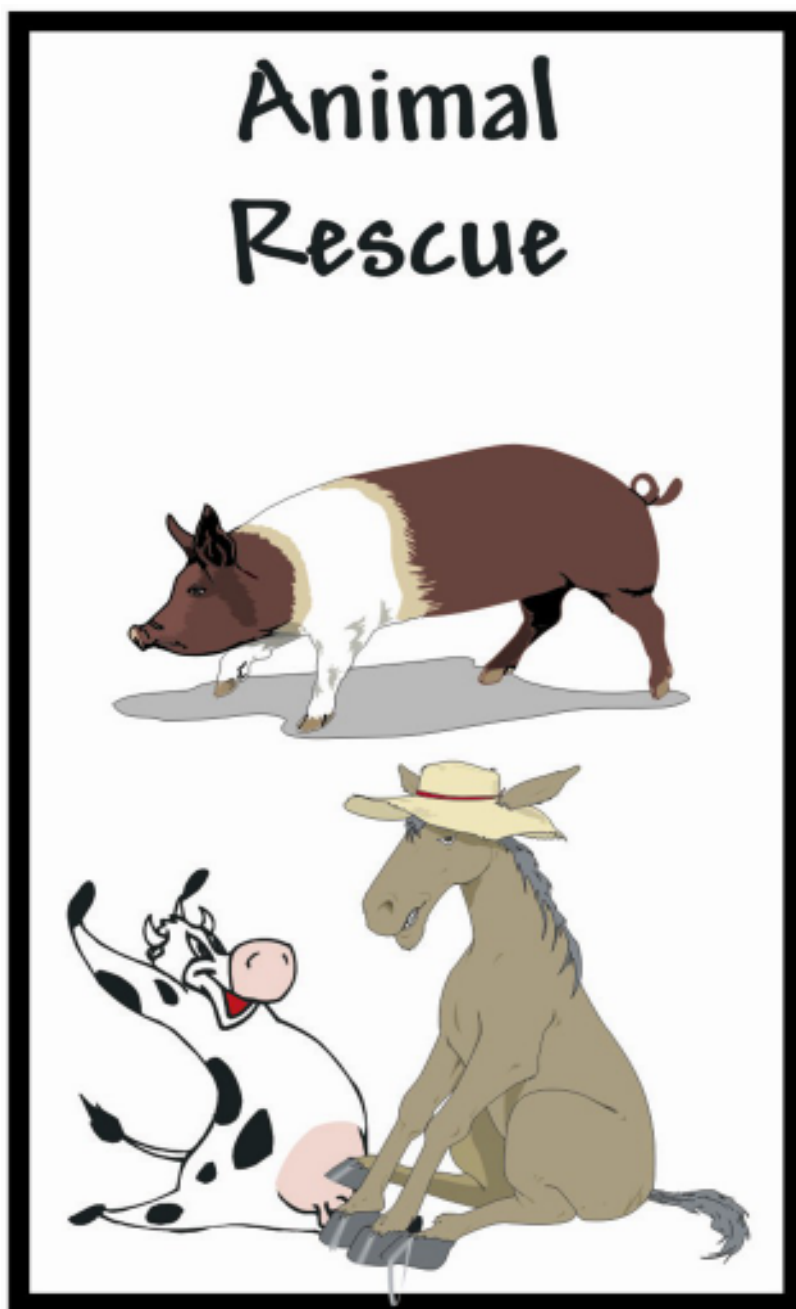
The Deadline is Sunday after the General Meeting.

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

Web Site: <http://www.wa6bgs.org>

Counterpoise E-Mail address

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net



2007 Officers

President	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Vice-President	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
Secretary	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Treasurer	KG6JCW	Mike "Stogie" Panger	263-4439

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Instructor	AE6QW	Gordon Shackelford	561-6323
Membership	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Net Manager	KG6TDP	Mike Oberbauer	444-9090
Public Service	N6NKJ	Rich Beisigl	444-5465
Social	KD6PRV	Anselmo Ruiz	574-0720

2007 Standing Committees

Bylaws	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
Club Attire	K6PKS	Paul Schmidt	733-2284
Counterpoise Editor	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445
Education	N6OPH	Mike Maston	296-9067
Elmer	KK6MS	John Graf	368-7413
EOC H2O District	KF6XY	John Cordle	697-2700
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Field Day	AI6O	Ed Felter	668-0928
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Post Mistress	KC6TBG	Ann Rios	593-9445
Prizes	WA6PPG	Carl Ferree	328-2694
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SANDARC Delegate	K5WFW	Len Fulbright	258-1322
Swap Meet	N6JOJ	Tom Myrick	449-3547
Technical	W6RHV	Bob Boehme	448-4728
Ticket Lady	KI6EEK	Lisie Rios	
WA6BGS Trustee	AE6CQ	Michael Martak	562-6477
WAMO	W6CCM	Erich Bennett	401-7332
Web Master	KC6QLS	Paul Rios	593-9445

Staff and Writers:

KC6QLS	Paul	Editor
AI6O	ED	Vice President
N6OPH	Mike	Meeting Minutes
KI6FIH	Tassy	HAM Spot Light
W6CCM	Erich	WAMO
W5COM	Tom & Lisie	Jokes
N6NKJ	Rich	Amateur Radio at Large
KK6MS	John	Down Below in EC
WA6MHZ	Pat	Crest Radio Museum
KI6EEL	Bridget	Photos

From The President

Paul KC6QLS



First, it's sad to say a long time and one of our founding members has passed. Harley Gabrielson, K6DS will be missed by a lot of Hams as well as non Hams. He touched many of us by fixing a radio, meeting for breakfast, or just talking to him on and off the radio. His service was nice, and I think he would be happy to see so many Hams there to say good bye.

It's good to see the members working together and finding a renewed interest in helping out. I'm getting some e-mail and phone calls asking for help and when I put the word out to the members they ask where and when, like the upcoming XTERRA SoCal Trail Running Series, Sunday February 11th in Santee. I believe this is why a lot of us got into Amateur Radio in the first place, to help out others in the time of need.

Volunteers are always needed for something and if you can help out, in any way you can, by scribing, working a radio, standing by a phone or just helping out with the event, your help is always appreciated. We are one of the larger clubs in San Diego County, and we are known for helping out when we can. So if you would like to volunteer, this is the club for you. Keep an eye out on the calendar and the web site for the time and place to volunteer.

We even have members donating prizes and items for the silent auction. Thank you. It's good to see so many people helping each other and helping the club.

73,
Paul Rios, KC6QLS
President

SANTEE DRIVE-IN SWAP MEET

10990 Woodside Ave., North
FOR INFORMATION, CALL 449-SWAP
Ham Radio, Computers, Electronics
ACRES & ACRES OF BARGAINS
1st & 3rd Saturday of the Month
GATES OPEN 6:30 AM

Silent Key
Harley Gabrielson, K6DS
WAMO # 21

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon

General Membership Meeting
11 January 2007



The general membership meeting of the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon was called to order by the club president Paul Rios, KC6QLS at 1900hrs.

SECRETARY'S report was approved as published in the *Counterpoise*.

EDUCATION report was also given by Mike, N6OPH. He reported that there were no students at the last class meeting on 9 January. The next class will be on 16 January. If there are no students, the class will be cancelled. This is the Technician Class. Mike also announced that Stogie, KG6JCW passed his general examination.

TREASURER'S REPORT was read by Michael "Stogie" Panger, KG6JCW. It was approved as read and filed for audit.

BUDGET report was given by Stogie KG6JCW. A copy of the budget is attached to these minutes herein. After discussion, the budget was approved as presented.

COMMITTEE Appointments were announced by Paul, KC6QLS. It was moved and seconded that the appointments be accepted. The motion was carried. Left over awards from December were finally awarded.

ED, AI6Q demonstrated PSK31 with actual radio equipment. With the assistance of Mike KG6TDP, there were two stations set up for the demonstration.

SILENT AUCTION winner is W6VJT donated by Dale Taber.

PRESIDENT Rios reported on his plans for club activities for the year. Highlights would be Field Day with a t-shirt contest with logos. The T-shirts may cost about \$12.00. Also the club will be participating in Del Mar fair booth as well as the club picnic. A t-hunt is again contemplated for the club picnic. The club will again participate at the Mother Goose Parade. Our new Elmer's chairman John, KK6MS will be hosting classes on radio and amateur basics. SANDARC plans to provide the meeting spaces for these classes.

MEMBERSHIP is 242 paid members with the last WAMO issued was 1727. This evening there were 50 members and two visitors in attendance.

PUBLIC SERVICE chairman reported on red flag and hospital amateur radio activities. There have been some changes in the ARES districts. The central district is now south bay.

SANDARC report was given by Mike, N6OPH. SANDARC will meet on 25 January at the Kearny Mesa Recreation Center at 1900hrs. On the preceding Thursday 18 January there will be a SANDARC Executive Committee meeting. All meetings are open for all amateur radio operators.

NET MANAGER Mike, KG6TDP reported on the many nets that are offered by the club. The WAMO nets are conducted on Wednesday and Saturday evenings starting at 1900hrs.

An inquiry was made about a larger coffee pot. The club will remove the large coffee maker from storage for use at the meetings.

There being no further business before the general membership the meeting was adjourned at 2100hrs.

Respectfully Submitted

Michael Maston, N6OPH
Secretary
Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon



AI6Q	FELTER FINANCIAL GROUP, INC Financial and Estate Planning
	Ed Felter, President
	8080 La Mesa Blvd Suite #113 La Mesa CA 91941 Phone: (619) 668-0929 Fax: (619) 668-5666 E-mail: edfelter@pacbell.net

From The Vice President AI6O ED



It has really been exciting to see the added enthusiasm for the digital modes in the ARCEC. The San Diego Digital VHF net has been steadily growing with club members and non-members as well. There are a number of members who are close to reaching their 10 digital WAMO contacts necessary for the new WAMO/D certificate. Also, the activity is not only on VHF frequencies (50.291mhz and 144.145 mhz USB PSK31/63). I was calling CQ the other day on 40 meters (7.070 mhz USB) and there was Steve, KO4QT on PSK31, and "WAMO", got me another digital WAMO contact! If you are interested in getting on the digital modes there are a number of stations ready to assist.

Which leads me to another subject—ELMERS. Thanks to John, KK6MS, who is on the digital modes, ARCEC is taking the lead among SD clubs in providing help, assistance and information for new hams and experienced hams alike in not only getting on the air, but making technology changes in operating modes. Contact John, who is heading up our "elmering" program, and volunteer your expertise or ask your question and get in touch with someone who can assist you.

It's great to be in a club that is moving forward and growing. That's our ARCEC!

Straight ahead!

Ed, AI6O



WA6BGS Nets

Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Manger
Mike Oberbauer:	KG6TDP	Net Controller
Frito	N6WKB	Wide Open Nets
Ed Felter	AI6O	WAMO/D

WAMO NETS:

Wednesday and Saturday Nights
8:00 pm local time 7:30 "Checkins"

Tuesday Night Rag Chew net:

8:00 pm

Nets held on club repeaters

WA6BGS Repeaters

RX 147.420 (146.475) 107.2 PL

RX 224.080 – 107.2 PL

RX 445.900 – 107.2 PL

Don't miss it. All members welcome.



New WAMO/D Net

ARCEC, San Diego Digital VHF Net

Time: 8:00 p.m.

Day: Thurs. "Except 2nd Thurs. of the month"

Mode: PSK31

Frequency: 50.290 MHz. and a QSY to 144.144 MHz

This is an open net and all are invited. Early check-ins will be taken. Hope to see you on the waterfall!

WAMO means Worked All Members Only. The purpose of WAMO is to encourage people to people communication between club members and to publicize the name of the club among fellow amateurs.


Calendar of Events February 2007

Feb.	3:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Feb.	3:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm
Feb.	6:	Board Meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb.	8:	General Meeting, 7:00 pm
Feb.	10:	ARES Meeting, 8:00 am
Feb.	16:	Yuma AZ. Ham Fest 16th -18th
Feb.	16:	Counterpoise Dead Line
Feb.	17:	Swap Meet, Santee Drive In, 6:30 am
Feb.	17:	T-Hunt, Grossmont College lot, 6:00 pm

Upcoming Event Dates

May.	10:	T-Shirt contest ENDS
June.	23:	Field Day 2007
July.	21:	ARCEC Annual Picnic
Oct.	??:	Fire Sation Open House
Nov.	18.	Mother Goose Parade

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5375 Kearny Villa Road
San Diego, CA 92123
(858) 560-4900 or 1-800-854-6046

The Counterpoise is also online in FULL COLOR. Check it out and the club's website at: www.wa6bgs.org

Get your advanced copy by e-mail. I will send it out in .PDF format the night it goes to print. E-mail me and let me know that you would like a copy. Size of file may be up to 1.5 mb at times.

Change of Address

Moving?

Do not miss an issue of the Counterpoise. Fill out the Change of address form below.

Call _____ WAMO# _____
Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
New Address:
Address _____
City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Send to Membership Chairperson:
A.R.C.E.C./ P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

ARCEC Membership Application

1. Amateur Call Sign	2. Class of License
3. First Name	4. Last Name
5. Street Address	6. City, State, Zip+4
7. Home Phone	8. Work Phone
May we list: Y N	
9. DOB	10. e-mail
11. ARRL Member Yes no	12. ARES Member Yes No
13. RACES Member Yes No	14. Sponsored by: or Family Member

Return this form with check made payable to the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon or ARCEC for new or renewal membership. Annual Dues \$18.00 for Individual, \$30.00 for family. New members add \$5.00 per member. Include your call on Check. Mail to
Membership Chairperson
A.R.C.E.C, P.O. Box 50, El Cajon, CA 92022

New () or Renewal ()	WAMO Number
Certificate Issued	Dues from _____ To _____
Paid Cash ()	Check No.
Check ()	Date Paid:

Computer Roster Available

Want the roster sent to you via e-mail? Send an e-mail to Ann Rios KC6TBG, and she will send you the database back as an attachment. She uses Excel, but may be able to convert to various formats if asked. Send your request to 619-593-9445 or KC6TBG@cox.net

FUN PAGE

Birthdays February

February	1	KI6FIH	Tassy	Rios
February	2	WB6NMR	Angelo	Boccia
February	4	K5WFW	Len	Fulbright
February	5	KD6HWJ	Shirley	Green
February	7	WD6FDD	Richard	Wilkerson
February	15	W5COM	Tom	Bryan
February	17	K6GTP	George	Roullard
February	18	KI6EEK	Lisie	Rios
February	19	W6CCM	Erich	Bennett
February	19	WA6RLV	John	Austin
February	19	KE6SLO	Jerry	Rauch
February	21	KD6PRV	Anselmo	Ruiz
February	22	KF6XY	John	Cordle Jr.
February		KB6CKM	Harold	Campbell

Did I miss your Birthday or is yours next month?
Your Birthday may not be on the Roster.

E-mail me: WA6BGScouterpoise@cox.net

Brain Thinkers

Jan-2007

4 = Q. in a F. G. ?

4 Quarters in a Football Game

200 = D. for P. G. in M. ?

200 Dollars for Passing GO in Monopoly

365 = D. in a Y. ?

365 Days in a Year

5280 = F. in a M. ?

5280 Feet in a Mile

----- This Months -----

1= G. L for M.

2= N. in a D.

4= S. in a D. of C.

Word Search "Animal Rescue"

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H U R R I C A N E P K F X W E W
A Z W K T E W X S E Y E S P
R E C P H O R S E Z I E J T
N T O E A W P R W T J W R A Q
E A R T H Q U A K E A G E P G
S W R L P J Y D Y P F D P L X
S K A X W X R I E O P O E T D
P T L Q V G E O Q R Z O A Q O
E F G X F Q T H R X J Q L T W
E D I S A S T E R X J T F E H
W H C H E B A C K U P V R T N
A Q O K E N B W A Z W Q T A R
L Y M J N R Q Z L G F T G A K
G V R E F V Y F I R E P V I E
Q X T F K H A G O W K C Q L S
T N Y H X R T J V O F L J E V
A N I M M X A L Y K D V A R K
    
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- | | |
|-------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> ANTENNA | <input type="checkbox"/> FOOD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BACKUP | <input type="checkbox"/> HARNESS |
| <input type="checkbox"/> BATTERY | <input type="checkbox"/> HORSE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CAGE | <input type="checkbox"/> HURRICAN |
| <input type="checkbox"/> CORRAL | <input type="checkbox"/> ICOM |
| <input type="checkbox"/> DISASTER | <input type="checkbox"/> KENWOOD |
| <input type="checkbox"/> EARTHQUAKE | <input type="checkbox"/> RADIO |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FARM | <input type="checkbox"/> REPEATER |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FIRE | <input type="checkbox"/> ROPE |
| <input type="checkbox"/> FLOOD | <input type="checkbox"/> SIMPLEX |

BOUNCE WORD ☐ TRAILER

Last Months Word Search

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T I M E S Q U A R E A W O W O
H A H A N O I T U L O S E R A
G F R E Q U E N C Y V Z P A H
D F X W D A W P W E J D D E
N E W Y E A R N G L R E D J C
D K N A U N W J P D T I H O N
M G Z G N T X D F Z I B U N A
M S S I K E N I V E C Z G J H
A W H A F N F P N F A G F X C
J F E U P N J O I J L D X K D
W R L G N A H L K H Y E R F N
D R D W H P J E G X A N B A O
R E N C O U N T D O W N W M C
P N A R M X D F W U F B A I E
X N C K E W U Z G K H Z Q L S
Z I A S O L O R C Y C L E Y W
M D F U D H S E V I T A L E R
    
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Reprint August 2004

Was our Very First Ham Spot Light

Harley Gabrielson, a native from Minnesota, who is not a fisherman, spends his free time as HAM Radio Operator K6DS, Extra, WAMO #21. A HAM since 1939, Harley is a current Trustee of W6GGC and past Trustee of WA6BGS. Over the years, he's been known as W9DER, WOTER, W5MLE, W4SQF and W6HEK. Since 1968, Harley has been a loyal member of the El Cajon Club and is now a life member. Throughout his time as a HAM, Harley has been a founding member of SANDRA, started VEC and ran it for ten years. He served on the Board of Directors of Project Oscar. He favors all bands and CW is his first pick for mode of operations. After reaching the 160 DX mark, he quit counting his world wide contacts.

Harley married in November of 1953 and left a year later for Japan. He served in the Army as Rank T3, which is the equivalent to Staff Sergeant. He remembers using phone patches from Japan to San Diego to talk to his wife.

Previously, he served during WWII. He also worked on the Manhattan Project, which involved atom bombs. He was an electrical engineer and has now been retired for 42 years. Harley now spends his time with HAM Radios and photography. His next project is to transfer 1000 slides into digital form. Good luck with that! He advises younger HAMS to do CW. He believes operating CW can make better operators. If you can learn it, become accustom to it, you can grow more comfortable with it. Harley also hopes to see more HAMS register with the ARCEC. No longer just a voice on the radio, the spotlight shines on Harley, K6DS.

73's

Tassy Rios, KI6FIH Staff Writer



Jokes "More Gain"

To get more gain in gas per miles a ham put more Antennas on his car. If it does not work he will install an amplifier.

Lisie KI6EEK

The Editor's
Corner
KC6QLS Paul



Have you ever thought that Amateur Radio Operators (HAMS) should have their own declaration or creed? Perhaps we could borrow from a few great works. It might go something like:

"We the Amateur Radio Operators of the world have united to form one great communications network. We agree that all Amateur Radio Operators are created equal. We agree that all Amateur Radio clubs and organizations are created equal, although each may have a separate and distinct purpose and function. We accept and invite diversity and will not discriminate based on gender, age, race, nationality, or class of license. We agree to perform communications for our various communities through good times and bad, for individuals, at community service events, and in times of disaster. We agree that while we are volunteers and provide our own equipment, we do appreciate a kind word and a good meal. We agree to follow good radio etiquette, be responsible, be accountable for what we say and do, to uphold the FCC Rules, spread good will and be a friend to every Amateur Radio Operator."

Wouldn't it be great if we could all agree on a creed for Amateur Radio Operators to live by? Once we have a meeting of the minds as to who we are as a group and what we stand for, we can accept the diversity within our group and work together to benefit mankind. Once we realize and accept that while all Amateur Radio Operators and Amateur Radio Clubs and Organizations are equal, each has separate functions and goals, we can work together towards our one overall goal – to form one great communications network. While we are all working towards the same goal, each club and organization may take a different path to get there. For example, some organizations/clubs are service oriented, have a

Continued Page 13

Volunteers Needed

Up Coming Events

Field Day

Please Sign up at the next meeting

NEW E-Mail

Address for the Counterpose. Please submit all *Counterpoise* Mail to:

WA6BGScounterpoise@cox.net

Prize Table Needs Help

Thank you for your contributions to the Prize Table! We still need your Support and Help or it may just end up a thing of the past. To Help, contact WA6PPG Carl Ferree at 328-2694 e-mail at cferree@IEEE.ORG

Things to keep in mind

Get on the El Cajon ARC Reflector

To sign up visit:

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/elcajonarc/>

You will get the latest news about The Club and things going on in the Ham world.

Quote of the Month

"Who can give law to lovers? Love is a greater law to itself"

- Boethius, *Ibid* 12,47



Plaza Las Palmas Center
1255 Avocado Ave. Suite 103,
El Cajon, CA 92020 (619) 440-4031

Crest Radio Museum

Pat Bunsold, WA6MHZ



The National NC-88/98 Twins.

In 1954, National Radio Company, a main competitor with Hallicrafters and Hammarlund, introduced the NC-88 as an economy Shortwave receiver. It had general coverage for the Broadcast to 30 Mc bands along with calibrated Ham band segments. It worked fairly well, but was a little lame on CW and especially SSB, which was just becoming popular. So they came out with a Deluxe NC-88 designated the NC-98; which featured Crystal Phasing for excellent CW detection and signal enhancement, and an S-Meter, which was left off the NC-88. Both were great successes and thousands were sold. National came out with many more receivers following these, but none were as deluxe as the HRO series. These required changing a coil box for each band, not very convenient. National went away in the 70s as did most of the other great Receiver names, but most of the radios are still around.

In the spring of 1968, I had developed an interest in electronics and though only 15, wanted to explore the world further. Somehow I talked my parents into accompanying me to a local radio store in the Western Chicago suburbs and showed them a Ham Radio station on the shelf. It was a Heathkit DX-40 transmitter and National NC-88 receiver. Also, somehow, they were talked into buying it for me and I was on my way to becoming a Ham. There was a local Radio club listed on the bulletin board in the store, the Dupage Radio Club. Visiting the club, they had a Novice class ongoing so I enrolled. Back then, it required a 5 WPM Morse test and an easy written exam, but not as easy as today's Tech test. I went crazy and passed it all in 2 weeks. But there was no overnight license authorization, no! we had to wait several MONTHS! I had to try out the Ham Station!

Not having much theory absorbed, it was postulated that a good antenna would be a wire run out the window to as far back in the yard it would go. Nope, no antenna tuner, but the Shortwave bands held a lot of enticing signals to listen to on the NC-88. I had to try the transmitter. Moving the antenna to the back of the Heathkit, I pressed the key down. Yes the meter moved. Seemed like a good idea to tune the knobs for MAXIMUM READING!!! Yes, I hadn't heard about dipping the plate current or matching the antenna!! So the meter moved higher and higher and the DX-40 started to get VERY WARM!!! Suddenly there was a flash and a cloud of

smoke as the Power Transformer melted down!!!! But the receiver still worked, and I went on to Shortwave listening big time. Especially Broadcast band listening, where I copied stations at night from all over the country and sent off for QSL cards for confirmation. Overseas stations were enjoyed on the higher bands. But I just couldn't tune in the DONALD DUCK stations in the Ham bands. Writing to the National Company, I explained my plight and they instructed me to reduce the RF gain and preset the BFO to a certain place, then tune with the bandspread. It was still tricky, but finally I could hear Hams in QSO and was amazed what I heard. The NC-88 worked quite well, though it was completely numb in the 20-30 Mc range. Maybe because I had a long wire antenna. Attending more Club meetings, I told them about the DX-40 and they just laughed. Well, I would have laughed too if I didn't have a blown transmitter!! Eventually the license came in, but I didn't have any interest in making contacts by Morse code. I went right to 2 meter AM, the only place Novices could talk, and the rest is history.

I scored this NC-88 (radio on the right) on Ebay for quite a sum, and it arrived poorly wrapped with a few knobs smashed. I glued them back together as well as possible and restored the rest to perfect operating condition. It was great to have my FIRST Receiver again! Sometime later, I saw a NC-98 for bid and nailed that dirt cheap! Only \$26, what an incredible bargain for Ebay. But the clown ALSO failed to wrap it up well and it arrived with all the knobs completely smashed and a couple of controls broken!! What a mess!!! Why can't these sellers learn that a few wads of crumbled newspaper is NOT sufficient protection from the Postal GORRILAS tossing these around like basketballs! The seller lamented and refunded me the \$26 as I explained how it was a total loss. Then I found a guy selling NC-98 parts on the Web. Cost me \$52, twice what the radio did, to get all the replacements, but finally the radio was complete and fully restored. Works great!!! So here are the National Twins, NC-88 and 98, for Museum display.

ON top are a Heathkit HW-16 CW transceiver (80,40, & 15) designed just for the Novices of the 60s. They were very popular. On the right is a little more obscure HW-18. These were useless for Ham as they are crystal controlled on 4 Mc and designed for Civil Air Patrol and MARS use. They did make a 160 meter model as well, but also crystal RX and TX. They are otherwise similar to the Heathkit Singlebanders (of which I have them all)

—
Pat Bunsold WA6MHZ
San Diego Section Manager
Curator, Crest Radio Museum

Down Below It's No Contest

Just like fishermen have fishing tournaments and gardeners have their garden shows, it is inevitable that Hams will have contests. Although there are contests on VHF and above, most of them exist in the world of HF. If you were to look at a contest calendar, there is some sort of event going on every weekend.

There are many different types of contests. Some are limited to a specific band, such as the ARRL 10 Meter contest. Others are limited to a certain mode, such as SSB or RTTY. A few others are limited to participants, such as the ARRL Sweepstakes that is open to stations in the USA, its possessions, and Canada. And don't forget Field Day! It is many things, but it is also a contest.

Still, there are certain things that all contests have in common. The goal is to contact as many other stations as you can while staying within the rules. You have to exchange certain information with the other station, and this information is entered into your log to prove that the contact took place.

There are some stations that seem to exist solely to win contests. We are talking about stations with many rigs, big amps, and multiple Yagi arrays for every band. These "Big Guns" are often run by contesting clubs and are usually the winners in their categories. You can hear their booming signals as you go up and down the bands during a contest.

Luckily for you and me, we don't have to compete directly with these monster stations. Virtually every contest has categories for the Big Guns and categories for the "Little Pistols" that most of us have in the shack. So even with 100 watts and a dipole, you can be competitive.

But why should you compete in a contest? Well, there are two very good reasons. First of all, it is just plain fun. Secondly, there is no better way to quickly earn operating awards such as WAS (Worked All States) or DXCC (DX Century Club). As an example, during one 12-hour period in the last ARRL SSB Sweepstakes, I got 46 states worked with a barefoot rig and a vertical antenna!

Contesting can be done very successfully at home, within easy reach of the refrigerator. It can also be done at remote locations, and it can be done as a team effort with friends to help you operate, spot stations, or log contacts. And if you pick an Extra Class station to operate from, any Ham of any class license can help out and can get on the air!

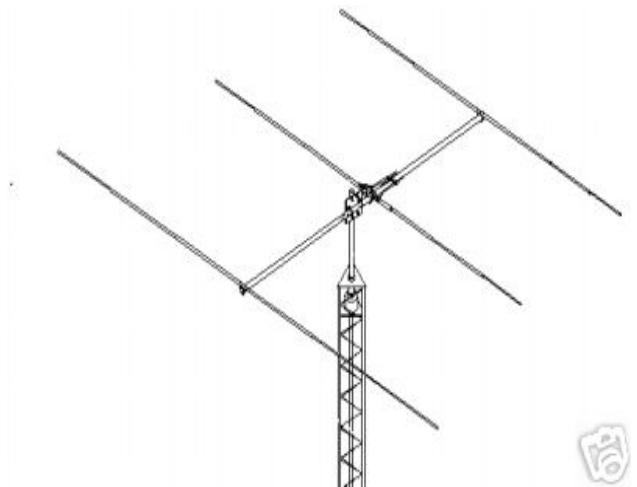
If you have never entered an HF contest, I urge you to give it a try. Start out by visiting the contesting page on the ARRL web site. There you will find contest calendars, rules, and operating tips. Expand your search into other sites on the Internet and there are troves of valuable contesting information.

I also urge you to ask around the club and find other Hams who have an interest in contesting. Either you will find an Elmer who will help get you started, or you will find a teammate to work the next contest with.

And speaking of Elmer's, I am still looking for people who want to try working HF and for people to help them get there. Let me know if you fall into either category.

73,

John, KK6MS



Crest Radio Museum Continued



Testing and Classes

VEC Testing Sites

1 st Saturday:	El Cajon 10:00 am First Lutheran Church of EC 867 South Lincoln Ave.
2 nd Saturday:	Carlsbad 10:00 am Carlsbad Safety Center Orion Way Carlsbad
3 rd Saturday:	North Park 10:00 am North Park Recreation Center 4044 Idaho Street San Diego
4 th Saturday:	Chula Vista 9:00 am Salvation Army 643 Third Ave Chula Vista
5 th or last Saturday:	Escondido 10:00 am Escondido Chamber of Commerce 720 north Broadway Escondido

To make advance reservations or to find out more info from the site captain, please call 465-EXAM (3926)

Club Attire

***** Shirts on hand. Call for Sizes *****

Get your jackets, hats and t-shirts.

Show off your club colors and let all know that the Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon is strong and growing.

Contact: K6PKS Paul Schmidt (619) 733-2284

General Class License Theory Course Instructor:

Location: 222 W. Madison Avenue, El Cajon

Time: 7:00 to 9:00 p.m.

Text: ARRL's

Sessions:

1 – 6 on Tuesday: 3-13-2006 First Class

To enroll Contact: Mike Maston, N6OPH
Education Chairman
(619) 296-9067

Amateur Radio At Large

From Rich N6NKJ



Hello all,

This is the beginning of a new column that I hope will feature amateur radio events county-wide. As you know, I wrote the ARES Connection, but since I have completely resigned from ARES, I felt this new column highlighting what is going on in our county would be of more interest to all of the club members.

If you are a member of other clubs and know who the public service coordinator of the club is, please give him/her my email address which is; rbeisigl@csst.net. My plan for this endeavor is to make this column one that will keep all of you informed of the many opportunities for you to get involved with the many facets of our great hobby, pastime, or whatever you like to call it. I encourage your input and comments, good or bad, so send me e-mails of what you like or dislike.

On a personal note; I remember the first time I heard the call K6DS. When I finally received my novice call, KB6JCH, my good friend and one of my mentors, Mike Garrison, ex KG6VP, talked me into getting on the air and making CW Contacts with club members. One of these people was K6DS, and for some reason, I just could not get his call right, but I got all the other calls just fine. At the next club meeting, Harley Gabrielson came up to me and said "Hi, I'm K6DS, and a friendship was made that lasted until his sudden passing.

And, as always, please keep our brave men and women of our armed forces in your prayers.

AND GOD BLESS THE U.S.A

Until next month 73's.

Rich, N6NKJ



Welcome New Members

New Members

WAMO # 1727	Steve St. Martin	KG6VVO
WAMO #1728	Ken Cohen	KI6HRH

Hats ready for pick up at the February meeting:

Mike K6KGW
David KG6QCO

Badges ready for pick up at the February meeting:

WAMO # 324	Tom	N6FRX
WAMO # 457	Roger	KE6PW
WAMO # 1690	Gloria	KI6DTA
WAMO # 1691	Rick	KI6DTD
WAMO # 1695	John	KI6JWB
WAMO # 1696	Will	KI6DQJ
WAMO # 1697	Rey	W6REY
WAMO # 1705	Kristine	KG6IZW
WAMO # 1706	Ken	W6GAF
WAMO # 1710	Bryan	KG6SMT
WAMO # 1713	Carl	KI6FIF
WAMO # 1714	Mike	KG6WLS
WAMO # 1715	David	K6AOS
WAMO # 1717	Paul	K6PFC
WAMO # 1718	Dan	N6ERD
WAMO # 1719	Mike	W6MTG
WAMO # 1720	Karen	KI6AKV
WAMO # 1721	Elaine	KG6ZXI
WAMO # 1722	Dan	KG6WJP
WAMO # 1724	Dale	WA6YHA
WAMO # 1725	Ken	WF6H
WAMO # 1727	Steve	KG6VVO

Thank you to all members who have renewed. Please check the mailing label on your Counterpoise. If your membership has expired, please take a moment to complete and return the Renewal Application located within this Counterpoise.

73 Ann, KC6TBG

Editor's Corner Continued

tight organizational structure, have structured and organized meetings, and there may not be much opportunity for volunteer's input due to the nature of the organization/club. Other clubs are more social and enjoy good friends and fellowship with a minimum amount of organizational structure within the club and at meetings. Other clubs incorporate service and social activities, and this is where I see the ARCEC.

While the ARCEC meetings are run by parliamentary procedure, there is room for member's input during the business portion of the meeting under "new business". During this time, any club member is welcome to bring up new ideas and/or service projects, but within the framework of parliamentary procedures. Our club was founded in the 1960's and this format has proved to be very successful over the years. The ARCEC has an internal structure and committees are set up to handle various activities. For example, if you would like to help out with Field Day, the Mother Goose Parade, write for the Counterpoise, or donate to the prize table, you would just contact that committee chair and he/she will be more than happy to have you on board. The ARCEC has social activities such as Field Day, the Mother Goose Parade, annual picnic and Christmas Dinner. The ARCEC is a member of the ARRL, has community service opportunities, has liaisons to other organizations such as SANDARC and ARES, who report on activities those organizations have coming up, and many of our members are also members of other service organizations. The ARCEC has an educational component and offers Technician, General and Extra Classes, and one of this year's goals is to expand our classes and offer more educational opportunities. ARCEC meetings usually include a presentation of interest to our club members and a business portion during which committee members report on their committee's activities and/or progress. While our meetings follow Parliamentary Procedure, we do have a social component and we do have FUN. The ARCEC is your club and your thoughts and ideas are welcome. If you have ideas for classes you would like offered, for events, for community service projects, or would like our club to participate in specific events, please email your ideas and information to me at kc6qls@cox.net. I look forward to receiving club member's ideas and input and will pass on your thoughts and ideas. As Public Relations, my goal for 2007 is for ARCEC to work together with our community and other clubs to improve our communications network and to expand Amateur Radio as a community service.

73
Paul KC6QLS
Public Relations & Editor

Odds & Ends

ARCEC DONATIONS NEEDED

\$200.00 to rebuild the Gang Box which is used for the Power Panel for Field Day. Thank you for your support at the January meeting where \$60.00 was donated. That leaves us \$140.00 to go. Donations will be accepted at the February and March meeting or by mail to our post office box. As soon as we get the parts, Mike KG6WLS has kindly agreed to rebuild the Gang Box for us at no charge. Again, thank you for your donations.

Pat W6VJT won the microphone at the January Silent Auction. Thank you for your donation to the club and have fun!

February Silent Auction:
2007 ARRL Hand Book



Estrada's
WELCOME BIENVENIDOS

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(Near the Airport)
(619) 562-5490
Mon-Sat 8am-9pm Sun 8am-4pm

Amateur Radio Club of El Cajon
P.O. Box 50
El Cajon, CA 92022



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Is your membership ready to expire?

Take a look on your mailing label. Is the expiration date in 2006? Does it say EXPIRED? That means it's time to mail in your yearly dues. Please take time to fill out the membership application in this newsletter, and mail it in, or bring it to the next meeting.



Amateur Radio ... A National Resource